

## Demolition makes way for new facilities at IVH

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The \$100 million Iowa Veterans Home construction and renovation project is down the road, but demolition of homes on site recently are making way for the future.

The homes were formerly used for staff physicians and business manager residencies.

The demolition will make room for the new construction as part of Phase 1 of what is known as the IVH Master Plan project.

The first phase - which has an estimated cost of \$42 million - will include a 120-bed nursing facility and a 60-bed pavilion that will attempt to have a home-like feel for residents that is less structured.

"It will truly be a home, it won't be an institutional environment," said Greg Wright, IVH business manager. "We are looking at a neighborhood type of environment."

More than \$14 million for Phase 1 is coming from the State of Iowa with \$26.7 million funded through the Federal Veterans Administration Construction Grant Program, which is still pending approval.

Wright said the hope is for the grant to go through by the end of the year so groundbreaking on Phase 1 can occur in the spring of 2009. He said the project would need about 24 months to be completed after groundbreaking.

The project will help alleviate space concerns on the IVH campus.

"The direct impact will be residents living three or four in a room will be able to be in single rooms," Wright said.

Phase 2 through 4 will include more new construction and renovation of existing buildings. The project got a boost in April when Gov. Culver signed legislation to provide \$20 million to fund Phases 2 through 4.

